

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Tolman and Russell Collection
2012.FIA.12

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Collection Information

Abstract: The collection contains information relating to the A. Tolman Carriage Company and its owners Albert Tolman and George W. Russell. Included in the collection are deeds and promissory notes of payment to and from the carriage company, correspondence and notes to and from clients, as well as ledgers, stock inventories, and a day book.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Found in archives. Probably part of a large collection of material donated in 1927 by Herbert T. Russell (1927.58)

MARC Access:

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Tolman and Russell Company, often referred to as A. Tolman and Company, was a successful carriage building and repair business in Worcester, Massachusetts. It was founded in 1837 by Albert Tolman and George W. Russell and conducted business among several different counties. It was known for its honorable business methods and quality workmanship, including its production of the first jinrikisha in the United States in 1846. Around 1889, Russell bought out Tolman's share of the company to create G.W. Russell and Sons and passed the company on to his sons upon his retirement that same year.

Albert Tolman was born on December 23, 1808 in Lincoln, Massachusetts to Elisha and Lucretia Tolman but moved to Concord with his family when he was only two days old. Tolman's poor health kept him from going to college, but allowed him to work in carriage making. In 1830, he moved to Worcester to continue his work as a carriage maker. In 1833, Tolman went into business with Mr. Hunstable until Hunstable's death. Tolman then became business partners with George W. Russell, a former fellow apprentice, in 1837. Tolman was an active member in the Worcester Community, including the Worcester Society of Antiquity. Tolman retired from the business around 1889 and died on October 22, 1891 at the age of 83.

George W. Russell was born on August 9, 1809 to James and Mary Butler in Carlisle, Massachusetts. Russell moved to Concord and became apprenticed to a carriage maker in 1825 and became a journeyman in Amherst a few years later. Russell became business partners with Franklin White in Roxbury until they annulled their business relationship in July 1837. Russell then moved to Worcester, Massachusetts and started a business with Albert Tolman. Like Tolman, Russell was a prominent member in the community, specifically in city political issues. Russell retired from the carriage business around 1889 and died on January 21, 1893 in Worcester at the age of 84.

Scope and Content

The collection contains correspondence between Tolman, Russell, and various clients and business associates, promissory notes of payment for services, deeds of land and property bought from members of Worcester, notes of business transactions, and ledgers and stock inventories.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Deeds and Business Transactions (1837-1873)

Series description: This series contains various land deeds, promissory notes of payments, and other company documents.

Series 2: Correspondences (1846-1880)

Series description: This series contains letters and notes to and from various clients pertaining to issues of business and payments.

Series 3: Ledgers (1825-1869)

Series description: This series contains books and notes of stock inventory, accounts of debt, and George W. Russell's day book.

Tolman and Russell Collection
 Series 1: Deeds and Business Transactions (1837-1873)
 2012.FIA.12

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.1	July 20, 1837—Dissolution of partnership between George W. Russell and Franklin White
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.2	August 24, 1837—Note of Franklin White's ownership of all company property from partnership with George W. Russell
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.3	June 5, 1845—order for dead bolt from Sherman and Atwater to A. Tolman and Co.
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.4	February 24, 1847—letter and balance of account from Humphries
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.5	September 13, 1847—agreement between A. Tolman and Co. and John O. Jones and Co. for twelve specifically designed carriages for John O. Jones Co.
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.6	January 1, 1849—advertisement for importing business changing its name from Kendall, Carpenter, and Co. to Kendall, Whitwall, and Co.
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.7	May 1849—advertisement for new manufacturing business Johnson and Richards
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.8	May 1852—advertisement for George A. Whiting
1	1	2012.FIA.12.1.9	March 12, 1873—Fisk Metallic Burial Case Co. notes of payment and purchase
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.10	October 15, 1833—promissory note for \$1000 from Charles Thurber paid by Gorge W. Russell
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.11	December 2, 1838—promissory note for \$14.67 from John Stiles to Albert Tolman

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 1 Continued

1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.12	January 28, 1839—promissory note for \$21.72 from Samuel P. Damen to Albert Tolman
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.13	December 2, 1842—promissory note for \$5.00 from John Snow to Albert Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.14	April 7, 1852—promissory note for \$104.00 from William H. Brewer to Albert Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.15	June 6, 1854—promissory note for \$45.00 from Leander Eaton to Albert Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.16	October 9, 1854—promissory note for \$11.26 from Jeton Prentis to Albert Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.17	April 4, 1855—promissory note for \$322.20 from Goulding and Co. to George W. Russell
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.18	October 12, 1855—promissory note for \$209.10 from Yeast and Lach to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.19	October 22, 1855—balance account of \$19.66 from E.H. Potter and Co to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.20a	April 3, 1856—promissory note for \$13.40 from James E. Marshall and Co. to George W. Russell
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.20b	May 21, 1856—promissory note fro \$80.00 from Samuel M. Lovering and Silas M. Lovering to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.21	February 1, 1873—promissory note for \$28.50 from Stephen Salisbury Junior to Mer and Farm

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 1 Continued

1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.22	August 13, 1880—promissory note for \$100.00 from Stephen Salisbury Junior to Number 1
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.23	October 7, 1883—promissory note for \$357.70 from William Gould to Geo S. Hoppin and Co
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.24	May 19, 1884—promissory note for \$196.00 from William Gould to Geo S. Hoppin and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.25	March 6, 1885—promissory note for \$300.00 from William Gould to Geo S. Hoppin and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.26	August 30, 1886—promissory note for \$200.00 from William Gould to Geo S. Hoppin and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.27	January 15, 1886—promissory note for \$50.00 from Carle and Peckham to William Gould
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.28	1888—promissory note for \$15.00 from Snow Abbott and Co. to Albert Tolman
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.29	August 8, 1843—promissory note for \$30.00 from Solon Hubbard to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.30a	June 24, 1850—promissory note for \$200 in carriage work from George W. Russell to Charles Thurber
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.30b	June 24, 1834—promissory note for \$200 from George W. Russell to Charles Thurber
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.30c	June 24, 1839—promissory note for \$200 from George W. Russell to Charles Thurber

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 1 Continued

1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.30d	June 24, 1834—promissory note for \$200 from George W. Russell to Charles Thurber
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.31a	October 2, 1848—promissory note for \$326.00 from Elliot Carpenter, Lafayette Carpenter, and Dwight Mann to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.31b	June 12, 1850—promissory note for \$142.62 from Dwight Mann to Chris Bright
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.31c	October 2, 1848-June 12, 1850—promissory note for \$265.65 to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.32	June 26, 1861—promissory note for \$37.50 for one buggy from Willard M. Hall to A. Tolman and Co.
1	2	2012.FIA.12.1.33	June 2, 1867—promissory note for \$16.42 from S. M. Loverings to A. Tolman and Co.
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.34a	October 15, 1833—Deed: from Charles Thurber for \$1000 for a tract of land
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.34b	October 15, 1833—certification of authenticity of deed
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.35	October 15, 1833—Deed: Alpheus Menifield selling a tract of land for \$2300 to Charles Thurber
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.36	June 24, 1834—Deed: Charles Thurber selling a tract of land for \$2350 to George W. Russell
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.37	June 24, 1834—Deed: George W. Russell selling a tract of land for \$1050 to Charles Thurber
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.38a	October 7, 1842—Deed: George W. Russell selling a tract of land for \$1350 to James S. Russell

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 1 Continued

1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.38b	October 7, 1842—promissory note for \$1350 from George W. Russell to James S. Russell, including payment calculations
1	3	2012.FIA.12.1.39	June 3, 1848—demand of payment by A. Tolman and Co. for damages by James B. N. Gould costing \$64.37
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.40	July 2, 1849—demand of payment by A. Tolman and Co. for damages by Martin Crave and Thomas Donahue costing \$296.52
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.41	March 27, 1852—demand of payment by A. Tolman and Co. for damages by Abraham G. Randall costing \$131.41
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.42	August 19, 1856—George W. Russell takes full ownership of land deed of October 15, 1833
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43a	August 27, 1856—Mortgage: Danforth Brown selling a tract of land to A. Tolman and G.W. Russell for \$350
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43b	note of letters dated August 19, 1857 and August 22, 1858
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43c	August 14, 1857—letter from Danforth Brown to A. Tolman and Co.
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43d	August 23, 1858—letter from Danforth Brown to A. Tolman and Co.
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43e	June 25, 1869—promissory note to Tolman and Russell
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43f	February 23, 1862—letter from Danforth Brown to A. Tolman and Co.
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43g	August 27, 1856—payment schedule

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 1 Continued

1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43h	April 15, 1869—newspaper clipping detailing public auction of mortgage from Danforth Brown to A. Tolman and G. W. Russell
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43i	August 27, 1856—promissory note for \$356.00 from Danforth Brown to Albert Tolman and George W. Russell
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43j	January 12, 1871—promissory note for \$3.75 to John S. C. Knowlton from J. E. Tucker for advertisement of Danforth Brown's property
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43k	October 24, 1870—newspaper clipping detailing public auction of mortgage from Danforth Brown to A. Tolman and George W. Russell, names and calculations on reverse side
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43l	November 29, 1870—receipt of sale to Tolman and Russell from Lamson, Glazier, and Co.
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.43m	promissory note for \$10.55 by J. Henry Hill to A. Tolman and Co. for sale of Danforth Brown's mortgage
1	4	2012.FIA.12.1.44	November 2, 1863—demand of payment by A. Tolman and Co. for damages by Samuel M. Lovering and Silas M. Lovering costing \$219.99
1	4	2012.FIA.12.45	October 24, 1873—Deed: William Trowley selling tract of land to Albert Tolman and George Russell

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 2: Correspondence (1846-1880)
2012.FIA.12

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2012.FIA.12.2.1	September 7, 1849—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from H. and M. Haynes
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.2	1846-1852—short note
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.3	June 4, 1852—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from John Tawin
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.4	August 26, 1852—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from W. J. Mathes
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.5	April 17, 1852—letter to A. Tolman from W. J. Mathes
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.6	April 29, 1852—letter to A. Tolman from W. J. Mathes
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.7	May 3, 1852—letter to W. J. Mathes from A. Tolman and Co.
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.8	short note
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.9	January 7, 1843—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from William Lester
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.10	March 30, 1843—letter to A. Tolman from William Lester
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.11	May 18, 1846—letter to Tolman and Russell from J. G. Clark
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.12	May 21, 1846—letter to J.G. Clark from A. Tolman and Co.
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.13	May 22, 1846—letter to Tolman and Russell from J. G. Clark
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.14	January 8, 1848—letter to Tolman and Russell from J. G. Clark

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 2 Continued

1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.15	December 9, 1846—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from Richard Stoye
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.16	February 8, 1847—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from Smith Thaltan and Co.
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.17	October 6, 1849—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from Albert Hobart and Co
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.18	November 3, 1857—letter to A. Tolman and Co. from Jones and Kendrick
1	5	2012.FIA.12.2.19	September 20, 1880—letter to Daniel Seagraves from Albert Tolman

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 3: Ledgers (1825-1869)
2012.FIA.12

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2012.FIA.12.3.1	George W. Russell's day book beginning in Concord on September 27, 1825, includes inventory, lists of names, drafts of advertisements, and random thoughts, poems, etc.
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.2	February 1, 1837-1855—account of stock for Tolman and Hunstable
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.3	1837-1838—account of stock for Albert Tolman
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.4	February 1839—account of debts and credit
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.5	August 1839—account of stock in store room
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.6	1840—account of stock for A. Tolman and George W. Russell
1	7	2012.FIA.12.3.7	1841—account of stock

Tolman and Russell Collection
Series 3 Continued

1	8	2012.FIA.12.3.8	November 1866—account of stock
1	8	2012.FIA.12.3.9	October 31-November 11867—account of stock
1	8	2012.FIA.12.3.10	December 1868-1869—account of stock
1	BV	2012.FIA.12.3.11	1842-1845—A. Tolman and Co. account of stock
1	BV	2012.FIA.12.3.12	April 1833-February 1837—Tolman and Hunstable ledger